

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 2, 2004

David M. Stone
Acting Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
11951 Freedom Drive
Suite 900
Reston, VA 20190

Dear Acting Administrator Stone,

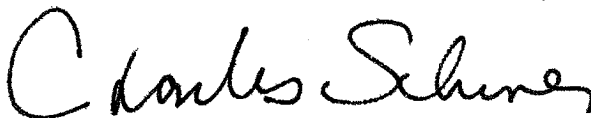
I am writing today to ask that you consider sharing the Transportation Security Administration's no-fly list with the National Park Services so that it might screen potential visitors to the crown of the Statue of Liberty. On Tuesday, the Statue will re-open to the public for reserved tours of the museum and the pedestal, however, the National Park Service will not allow visitors to climb to the crown of the Statue due to security concerns. While visiting the museum and the pedestal is certainly a thrill for visitors to the New York area, it will not match that of climbing to the crown and peering out at the New York landscape from the Statue. Climbing to the crown has historically been the biggest draw for tourists.

I believe that if the National Park Service could cross check potential visitors to the crown with the TSA no-fly list that has proven successful thus far in preventing possible terrorists from boarding planes in the United States, the crown could be opened safely and securely to visitors. These lists are compiled by multiple security agencies and are given to the airlines so that they can check their passenger lists to ensure these individuals do not board their flights. These lists determine possible security threats posed by certain individuals and terrorist networks and will prove effective in securing the Statue of Liberty as well.

Generations have come to New York to climb to the crown of the Statue of Liberty and I hope that generations to come will have that thrill as well. By instituting this security check, this cherished activity will be a secure activity and I urge you to share the TSA's no-fly list with the National Park Service so that it might re-open trips to the crown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Anthony Weiner
United States Congressman

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 2, 2004

Fran Mainella
Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Mainella,

As you prepare to open the pedestal and museum of the Statue of Liberty on Tuesday, I am writing today to urge you to reconsider your decision not to allow visitors to climb to the crown of the Statue of Liberty. While visiting the museum and the pedestal is certainly a thrill for visitors to the New York area, it will not match that of climbing to the crown and peering out at the New York landscape from the Statue. Climbing to the crown has historically been the biggest draw for tourists and I believe there is a way to allow this tradition to continue without compromising the security of the Statue.

You have already instituted a reservation based system for tours of the Statue. The National Park Service should use security clearance measures, similar to those used by the White House for guided tours, to screen individuals who wish to climb to the crown. The National Park Service could collect information (name, address, social security number, country of origin, etc.) to perform background checks on prospective visitors. The visitor lists would be cross-checked with the no-fly lists used by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to prevent possible terrorists from boarding planes in the United States. These lists are compiled by multiple security agencies and are used to determine possible security threats posed by certain individuals and terrorist networks.

In addition, the National Park Service could institute a "no-bag" rule for visitors to the crown. Under the rule, visitors would not be permitted to carry anything with them into the crown, thereby minimizing the risk that they would carry something that could harm the Statue inside. This rule, combined with the screening equipment and other security measures already put in place for the opening of the pedestal on Tuesday would ensure safe and secure visits to the crown.

Generations have come to New York to climb to the crown of the Statue of Liberty and I hope that generations to come will have that thrill as well. By instituting these security measures, this cherished activity will be a secure activity and I urge you to work with the TSA to re-open trips to the crown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Anthony Weiner
United States Congressman